

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
House No. 16
250 feet southwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-D

HAER
MONT
7-GREFA
2D-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
HOUSE No. 16

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: House No. 16 is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The house is 250 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.

Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 485305 Easting; 5264770 Northing

Date of Construction: 1913

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company
40 East Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701

Present Use: House

Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. House No. 16 contributes to the significance of the district.

Historian: Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
April 1995

II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

House No. 16 is located at the northeast end of the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility's operators' camp (see figure 1). The Great Falls Power Company (a Montana Power subsidiary after February 1913) constructed House No. 16 along with two others in 1913. A historic photograph shows the original appearance of the house as a hipped bungalow with a cutaway porch (see photograph HAER No. 95-D-5).

House No. 16 is rectangular in plan with a small rectangular wing on the rear. All roofs are hipped, except for the gable-roofed second floor addition and a small gable-roofed overdoor at the front door (see figure 2). The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The house rests on a concrete foundation. The rafter tails are exposed. The wood-frame walls are sided with clapboard siding with a narrow (2½") exposure. The belt course at the foundation is wide, and is topped with a water table.

This one and one-half story house has some Craftsman style details provided by a 1935 remodeling of the house. The most prominent of these is the second floor addition. Although the addition is totally under its own roof, from the front it appears as a gable-roofed dormer. It has eave brackets, shingled walls with every second course having a narrow exposure, and four-over-one double-hung sash windows on the northwest and southeast sides.

The house may have also received Craftsman Style windows during the 1930s. Most windows in the house have four-over-one double-hung sash. Exceptions are a triple window--three-over-one double-hung sash flanking a cottage window with a six-light transom--on the southeast, and a five-light rectangular sash on the northwest side.

Two-over-two double-hung sash windows enclose the front porch on the southeast and southwest sides. These windows are more appropriate to the original construction date of the house, and may have been re-used here after being replaced by the Craftsman-style windows. The rear door of the porch may have also been relocated from the front of the house during the Craftsman-period remodel. It has a one-half light over decorative panels. The existing front door has a full-light divided into 15 lights. The overdoor at the front door also displays Craftsman details with its wall brackets and rafters with cutouts.

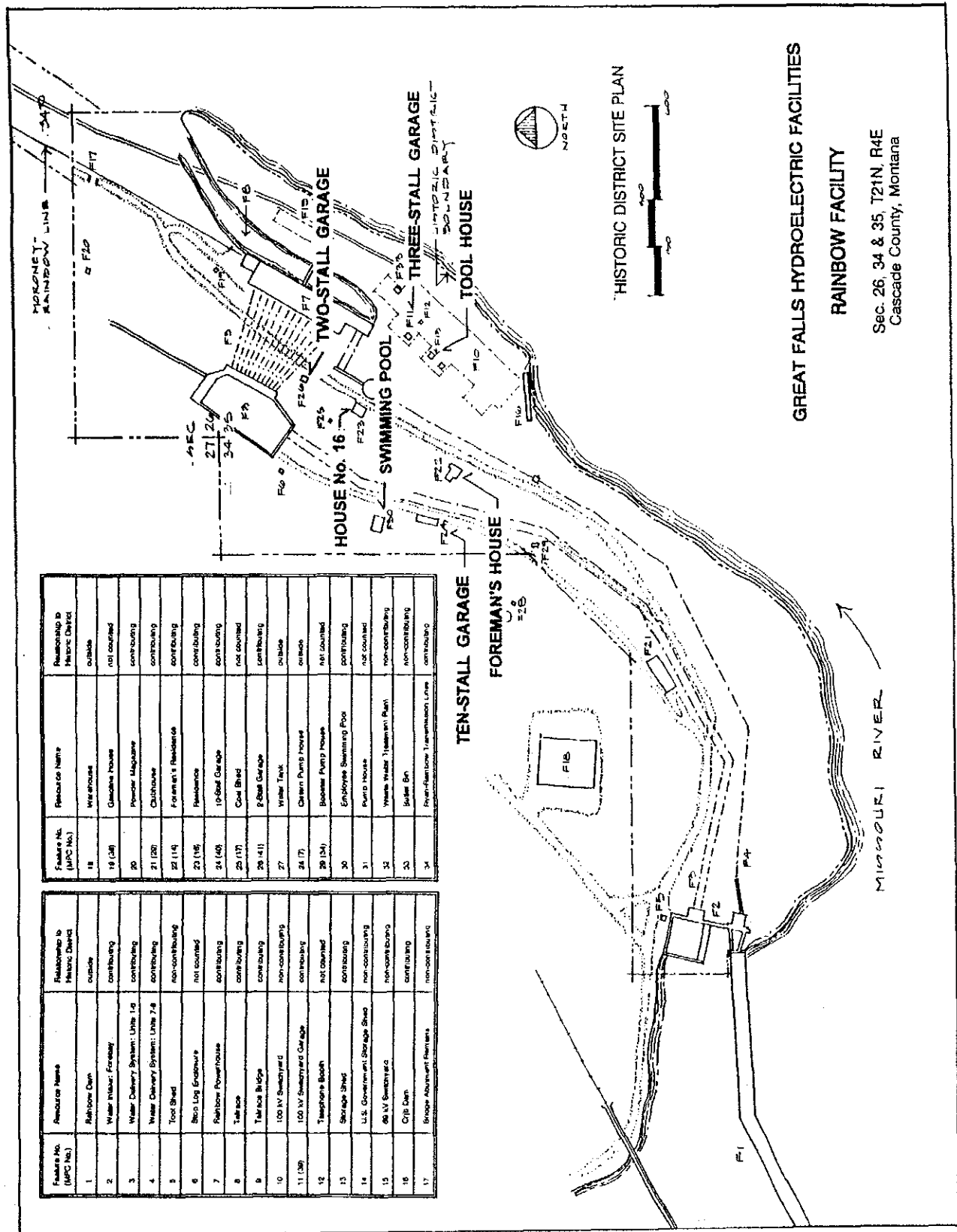
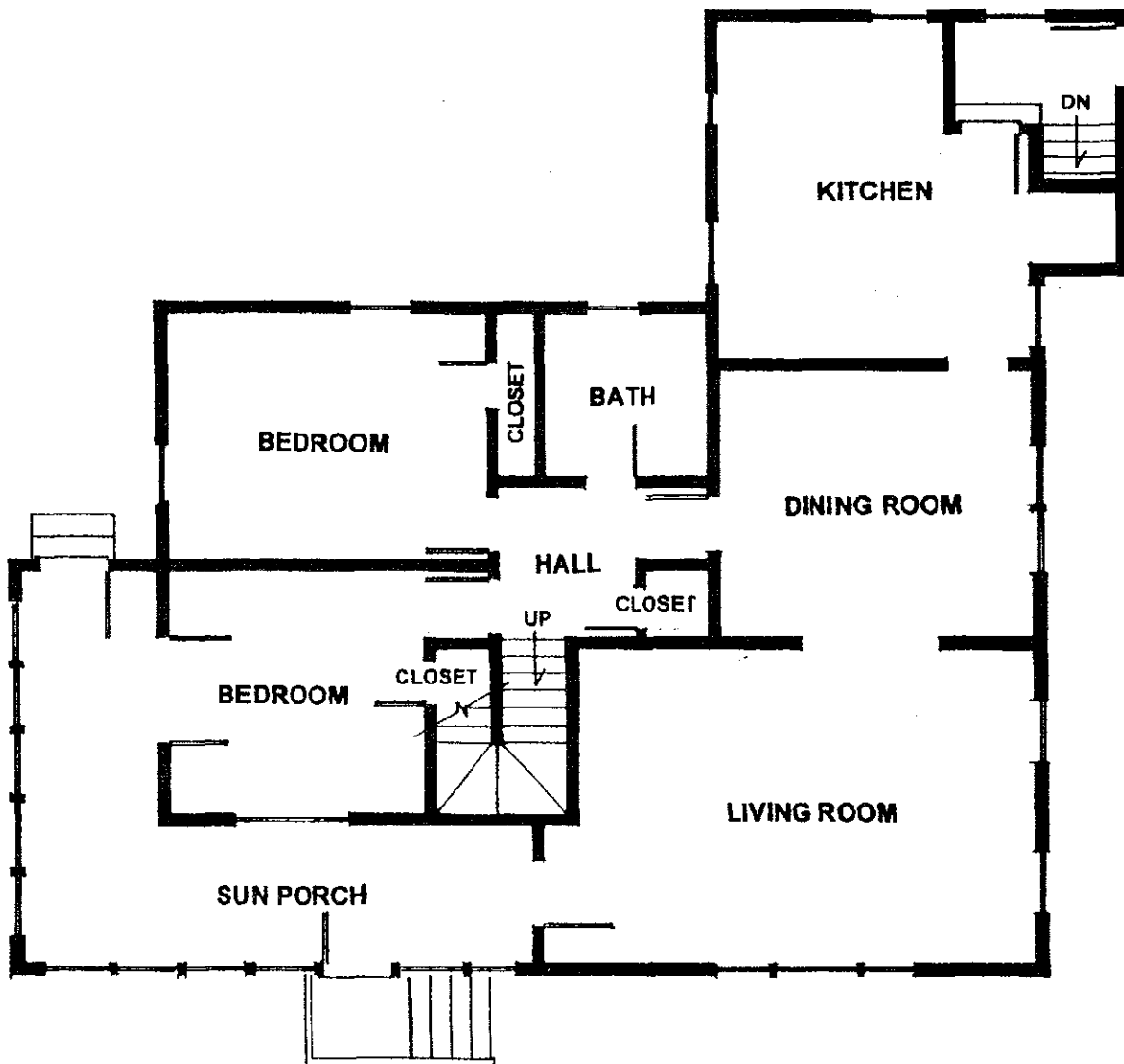


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.



FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



HOUSE No. 16

**RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**

Figure 2. Floor Plan of House No. 16.

Behind House No. 16 is a series of terraced stone retaining walls, a waterfall and pond, and paths and steps constructed by Montana Power employees in the 1930s.

III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the House No. 16 at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the building.